

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BANGKO 19397 010439Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 DHA-05 AID-05 TRSE-00 /080 W
-----011478 010911Z /10

R 010403Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5719

UNCLAS BANGKOK 19397

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, TH
SUBJ: A NEW PROVINCE IN NORTH THAILAND

THE FOL MSG RCVD FROM CHIANG MAI AUG 31 REPEAT FOR YOUR ACTION
QUOTE
R 310255Z AUG 77
FM AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 3248

UNCLAS CHIANG MAI 320

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, TH
SUBJ: A NEW PROVINCE IN NORTH THAILAND

1. SUMMARY: ON AUGUST 28 THAILAND'S NORTHERN-MOST PROVINCE
OF CHIANG RAI WAS OFFICIALLY SPLIT IN TWO AND A NEW PROVINCE,
PHAYAO, CREATED. THE NEW PROVINCE IS THE SEVENTY-SECOND IN THAILAND
AND THE FIFTEENTH PROVINCE IN THIS CONSULAR DISTRICT. THE NEW
GOVERNOR IS SANYA PALAWATVICHAI, WHO, PRIOR TO THE CREATION OF
PHAYAO, WAS THE VICE GOVERNOR OF CHIANG RAI. END SUMMARY.

2. ON AUGUST 28 THAILAND AND THE NORTH GAINED A NEW PROVINCE AS
THE RESULT OF DIVIDING THE PROVINCE OF CHIANG RAI IN TO TWO PARTS.
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THE NEW PROVINCE, PHAYAO IS THE SEVENTY-SECOND PROVINCE IN THAILAND
AND THE FIFTEENTH PROVINCE IN THIS CONSULAR DISTRICT. THE NEW
PROVINCE INCLUDES A POPULATION OF 378,112 AND SEVEN DISTRICTS. ALL
DISTRICTS WERE PREVIOUSLY WITHIN THE PROVINCE OF CHIANG RAI. THE
DISTRICTS ARE: THE AMPHUR MYANG, DOK KAM TAI DISTRICT, CHUN DISTRICT,
PONG DISTRICT, CHIANG KHAM DISTRICT, MAE CHAI DISTRICT, AND CHIANG
MUAN DISTRICT.

3. WHILE THE PROVINCE IS NEW, THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL, PHAYAO, IS A ANCIENT CITY OF NORTH THAILAND LONG NOTED FOR THE PICTURESQUES LAKE ON THE BANKS OF WHICH IT STANDS. A LOCAL HISTORIAN INFORMS US THAT THE CITY WAS FOUNDED IN THE YEAR 1264 BY KING NGARM MUANG. THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF PHAYAO HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF LOCAL PRIDE AND HAVE EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE EXCITEMENT IN CONVERSATIONS WITH THE CONSUL IN RECENT MONTHS ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF THEIR CITY BECOMING THE CAPITAL OF A NEW PROVINCE.

4. THE NEW GOVERNOR IS MR. SANYA PALAWATICHAI. KHUN SANYA HAS SINCE 1975 BEEN THE VICE GOVERNOR IN CHIANG RAI PROVINCE. PRIOR TO THAT HE HAD BEEN A DOLA INSPECTOR AND DEPUTY GOVERNOR IN UTHAITHANI AND BURIRAM. HE APPARENTLY HAS BEEN AWARE FOR SOME TIME OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT HE WOULD BECOME THE GOVERNOR OF THE NEW PROVINCE ONCE IT WAS CREATED. THE NEW GOVERNOR IS FIFTY-FIVE YEARS OLD.

5. PHAYAO ACQUIRES AT ITS BIRTH THE FULL RANGE OF PROBLEMS FACING AGRICULTURAL RURAL THAILAND INCLUDING A BORDER INSURGENCY AND ITS OWN REFUGEE CAMP, THE LAO HILLTRIBE REFUGEE CAMP OF CHIANG KHAM WITH SOME 2,886 REFUGEES.--SIGNED TANNER
UNQUOTE
O'DONOHUE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROVINCE, SELFDETERMINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BANGKO19397
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770316-0418
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197709110/aaaadolph.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4149aa3a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1095282
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: A NEW PROVINCE IN NORTH THAILAND THE FOL MSG RCVD FROM CHIANG MAI AUG 31 REPEAT FOR YOUR ACTION QUOTE
TAGS: PINT, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4149aa3a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009